REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Entry of the foregoing amendments, which raise no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search, is in order. Claims 12 and 24 are respectively combined with claims 13 and 25, which are cancelled, along with claims 33 and 24.

Applicant traverses the rejection of former claims 13 and 25 as being anticipated by Humpleman et al. (U.S. 6,288,716).

Humpleman relates to a home network including a first device 102 (client) and a plurality of second home devices (servers) 108, 110, and 120 (*FIG. 1*).

The first home device 102 is, for instance, a browser-based digital TV (DTV) which provides a human interface for the home network as it comprises a screen for displaying HTML pages (*column 6, lines 10-17*). This first home device functions as a client for receiving and interpreting HTML files associated with second home devices that act as servers and graphically display control and command function information (HTML files) respectively associated with the second home devices (*column 6, line 61, through column 7, line 3*). As a result, users control and command the second home devices (*column 6, lines 12 and 13*).

The control and command information defines a graphical user interface (GUI) for each second home device. The GUI enables the second home device to be controlled from the first

home device 102, by selecting icon-associated hyperlinks to start control programs displayed on the screen of the first home device (DTV) (*column 7, lines 42-46*).

A third home device 106 manages connections and removal of the second home devices. The third home device includes a configuration manager which manages an available second device list file 318 (*FIG. 4B*) by dynamically allocating Internet protocol (IP) addresses and logical names to the second home devices (*column 10, line 60, through column 11, lines 13 and 21-25; GENIP process 316; FIG.4B; column 12, lines 35-40*).

The first home device 102 i.e. the browser based home device, includes an auto-tree builder which uses the device list file in the configuration manager to generate a device link page that is displayed on the screen of the browser based home device 102 (*column 13, lines 15-26*). The device link page contains a home device button for each second home device identified in the device list file. The button is associated with a requested hyperlink to the top-level page of the respective second home device. The respective second home device's home page is displayed on the screen of the first device 102 if a user selects the button of the respective second home device. The home device buttons 504 (*FIG. 6*) are represented by ICON.GIF images of second respective home devices (*column 14, lines 8 and 9; column 10, lines 16-22*).

In contrast, the method of Applicant's amended claim 12 includes a manager equipment unit primary equipment units, and does not need three types of home devices. In particular, the method of amended claim 12 does not need the combination of (1) a configuration manager connected to the home network *(column 2, line 64, through column 3, line 3)* to maintain a list of currently connected home devices *(column 25, claims 3 and 4, column 26, and claims 16 and 17);* (2) second home devices that store user interface data; and (3) a first home device 102 for displaying, in combination with the user interface data, from second devices for thereby controlling the second devices only from the first device *(see Humpleman, columns 24 and 25; claim 1).*

The Humpleman first home device 102 for displaying a second-device link page *(FIG. 6)* is not needed to perform the method of Applicant's amended claims 12 and 24. The manager equipment unit of claims 12 and 24 composes the home page with at least the already-linked primary equipment units to download the home page to at least any one of the primary equipment units (formerly in claim 13, now in claim 12). The primary equipment unit must be able to carry out or control the functions of the other equipment units.

In the composing step, the presentation of the given primary equipment unit is included in the home page.

Claim 14 requires at least each primary equipment unit that is intended to display a home page, which depends on a respective display mode used in this primary equipment unit. Therefore, claim 14 indicates there is not one home page with the equipment presentations, but there are different home pages suited to equipment units respectively.

Humpleman does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of former claims 13 or 25, now amended claims 12 and 24. In particular, Humpleman does not disclose composing a home page which is downloaded into at least any one primary equipment unit. Humpleman also fails to disclose the claim 14 limitation of displaying a home page in one display mode used in said one primary equipment unit.

According to column 5, lines 18-23, of Humpleman, cited by the Examiner, a physical device (only the first home device, i.e., the browser-based DTV 102) fetches a total interface unit (GUI) from a second device to permit an interaction with the GUI to control the second device, i.e., from the physical device (= client = a consumer of information; column 5, lines 35 and 36). However, information (e.g., an icon image, IP address, or logical name) is downloaded from the physical device 102 into any of the second home devices 108, 110, 120 to form a home page in the second device.

Further, with respect to former claims 13 and 25 (as now incorporated in claims 12 and 24), neither the configuration

manager, nor the browser-based device (i.e., the first home device 102 of Humpleman), downloads the device link page into the second home devices.
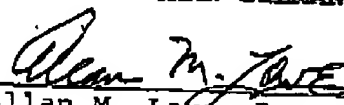
Humpleman does not disclose or suggest the foregoing features of claim 14, particularly in combination with the limitations of amended claims 12 and 24. The remaining claims depend on claim 12 or 24 and are allowable with them.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, prompt allowance is respectfully requested.

To any extent necessary, Applicant hereby requests an extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any required fees not otherwise paid, including application processing, extension, and extra claims fees, to Deposit Account No. 07-1337.

Respectfully submitted,
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